

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
SITUATION REPORT #12
Water Shortage Emergency
Tuesday, April 10, 2001 – 0900 Hours**

This report contains the latest information for the period up to Monday, April 09, 2001. Revisions are in bold. Please refer to previous situation reports for past information. Note: Next situation Report – April 25, 2001.

Situation:

The South Florida Water Management District's Governing Board declared an emergency on 3/27/01, and approved a comprehensive drought management implementation plan designed to minimize adverse economic impacts, while protecting water supplies.

The plan includes:

- a) **Modified restrictions to the Lower East Coast (Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties), the Lower West Coast (Lee, Collier, Hendry, Glades and Charlotte counties) and to the non-agricultural Lake users in Okeechobee County, effective April 2, 2001.**
- b) **A 50% cutback in water deliveries from regional storage areas to "diversion and impoundment" permit-holders.**
- c) **The establishment of resource-base "triggers" to define specific parameters that indicate a resource may be harmed.**
- d) **Corrective action measures and funding for identified "at risk" utilities.**
- e) **Opportunities to enhance storage in the Water Conservation Areas and Lake Okeechobee.**
- f) **More concerted and aggressive outreach and education with the public and affected industry groups, and**
- g) **Increased compliance and enforcement coordination.**

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Short Term:

Some potential for rainfall this coming week.

Long Term:

Continued probability of below average rainfall through August.

WATER CONDITIONS (for the Week of March 28 to April 3, 2001)

Kissimmee Chain of Lakes:

Upper Kissimmee received **4.43 inches** of rain. The water level in Lake Kissimmee was **48.43 ft** NGVD (National Geodetic Vertical Datum, 1929) at the beginning of the week and **48.70 ft** at the end of the week. The Upper Kissimmee Chain of Lakes (Myrtle, Alligator, Mary Jane, Gentry, East Tohopekaliga and Tohopekaliga) **showed increase in water level. The average weekly increase was 0.34 ft.**

The Lower Kissimmee area received **3.49 inches** of rain. The water level in the C-40 canal was **20.23 ft** at the beginning of the week and **21.29 ft** at the end of the week. The C-41 canal was **19.59 ft** at the beginning of the week and **20.07 ft** at the end of the week. The water level in the C-41A canal was **22.96 ft** at the beginning of the week and **23.71 ft** at the end of the week. The water level in Lake Istokpoga was **36.30 ft** at the beginning of the week and **36.45 ft** at the end of the week. Lake Istokpoga was below its modified regulatory schedule.

Lake Okeechobee Service Area

Lake Okeechobee received **1.7 inches** of rain. The water level in Lake Okeechobee was **10.10 ft** at the beginning of the week and **10.22 ft** at the end of the week. The Lake was under Supply Side Management. **Net flow into the Lake was approximately 7,814 ac-ft. Of the major structures, S2 and S3 pumped approximately 5,868 and 3,807 ac-ft into the Lake, respectively; S308 released approximately 729 ac-ft into the Lake; C5A culvert and temporary pumps at S351 released approximately 627 and 441 ac-ft of water out of the Lake, respectively.**

Water Conservation Areas (WCAs)

The Water Conservation Areas received **1.25 inches** of rain. The water level in WCA 1 was **15.07 ft** at the beginning of the week and **15.32 ft** at the end of the week. The water level in WCA 2 was **10.70 ft** at the beginning of the week and **10.81 ft** at the end of the week. The water level in WCA 3 was **8.89 ft** at the beginning of the week and **8.97 ft** at the end of the week. WCA 1, 2 and 3 WCA 3 were below their regulatory schedules during this period. Estimated average ground elevations for WCA 1, 2, and 3 are **14.0 ft, 10.5 ft and 7.5 ft**, respectively. **Structure S5AS released approximately 286 ac-ft of water from WCA 1 to the north via the L-8 canal.**

Upper East Coast

The Upper East Coast received **2.37 inches** of rain. The water level in the C-23 canal was **15.26 ft** at the beginning of the week and **17.08 ft** at the end of the week. The water level in the C-24 canal was **15.77 ft** at the beginning of the week and **18.14 ft** at the end of the week. The water level in the C-25 canal was **14.72 ft** at the beginning of the week and **20.82 ft** at the end of the week.

Lower West Coast

The Lower West Coast received **1.91 inches** of rain. Discharge from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee canal through structure S77 was approximately **881 ac-ft**.

OPERATIONAL STATUS:

The District's EOC remains at a level 2 (partial) activation. The Citizen Information Line is activated during normal business hours (0830 hours to 1630 hours).

TEAM REPORTS:

WATER OPERATIONS:

- Developed next week's Lake Okeechobee supply side management allocation.
- **Developing Backpumping Execution Plan.**
- **Coordinating with USACE to implement deviation in the WCAs.**
- **Developing Urban Operational Plan for water deliveries to coastal areas.**

Operation Support:

- All 14 pumps at S-351, S-352, and S-354 are installed and operational.
- Pursuing DEP permit for the installation of aquadams on C-51 to replace the existence of G124.

WATER SHORTAGE IMPLEMENTATION

Compliance/Enforcement

- To date, 12,467 warnings and 4,472 tickets have been issued.

Variance/Temporary Pumps

- To date, received 675 variance requests – 291 requests have been approved.
- To date, received 24 requests for temporary pump authorization – 19 requests approved.

Modified Water Supply Delivery Plans

- Revised reference stage for Lake Okeechobee to 9.15' effective 4/2/01.
- District's Governing Board approved funding to procure necessary equipment and services to assist Lake Okeechobee "At Risk" utilities.
- Preparing engineering plans for a secondary pumping facility at Clewiston Utility.
- Constructed support pad for crane at the rim canal pump station in South Bay.
- Reevaluating South Bay site for installation of one new pump, column and motor.
- Assisting Belle Glade Utility with design, construction plans, purchase and installation of two new pumps.
- Assisted Pahokee Utility with cleaning and clearing around existing intake structure.
- Met with diversion and impoundment permit holders regarding 50% cutback in deliveries to be implemented beginning week of 4/9/01.

Water Use Evaluation

- District-wide public water supply water use down 16% for week as compared with March/2000 average use.
- Salinity levels in the "at risk" coastal utilities remain stable. Staff setting up field sampling training to assure consistent data reliability.
- Scheduled meetings with water user industry groups throughout April to assess performance under modified Phase II restrictions.

MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

- Produced weekly reports on "Hydrologic Conditions".
- Characterized G-94C streamflow and water quality during backflow events from Lake Worth Drainage District to Loxahatchee National Wildlife Reservation.
- Produced report to Governing Board members regarding phosphorus concentrations and loads in water backpumped through S-2 and S-3.
- Produced the March "Water Shortage Conditions Report" for the April Governing Board meeting, and produced an addendum on the water quality of backflows to Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge through G-94C.
- Produced draft "Standard Operating Procedures for the Lake Okeechobee Forward Pumping".
- Co-produced draft "Water Quality and Biological Monitoring Plan for Lake Okeechobee Backpumping Year 2001"
- Continued to provide updates to internal and external water shortage web sites, including development of a "Backpumping for Water Supply" section that includes the results of water quality sampling.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

- Participated in the Florida Drought Emergency Partnership Meeting in Tallahassee.
- Held individual meetings on 3/19/01 with representatives from the Water Supply Utilities in Service Areas 1, 2 and 3.
- Held meeting on 3/20/01 with South Dade nurseries and agricultural groups to gather technical input on restriction implementation.
- Held public meeting on 3/21/01 to receive input from affected parties on the

development and implementation of a comprehensive drought management initiative.

- Made presentation on water shortage to the Martin County Commission on 3/20/01.
- Participated in water shortage teleconference with Division of Emergency Management, DEP, USACE and Water Management Districts on 3/22/01 and 3/29/01.
- Conducted weekly teleconference with Service Centers on 3/22/01 and 3/29/01.
- Participated in Governing Board's public meeting on modifications to Water Supply on 3/28/01.
- Made presentation on water shortage to the Palm Beach County Commission on 3/26/01.
- Conducted two water shortage training sessions for District employees on 3/30/01 and 4/5/01.
- Participated in South West Florida WMD "water conservation summit" in Tampa on 4/05/01.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- Monitored environmental impacts of backpumping into Lake O.
- Constructed and deployed bio-monitoring devices (for submerged plants and macroinvertebrates) at sites that would be potentially inspected by backpumping.
- Continued refinement of the ecological hazard index for Holeyland/ Rotenberger and the Water Conservation Areas. Surveying WCA-1 and WCA-3A to determine the location, number and species composition of bird rookeries in these areas.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Citizen Outreach

- Citizen Information phone line received approximately 21,334 calls.
- Updated internal and external water shortage web sites.

LEGAL

- Prepared and issued Order, effective 3/28/01, declaring Phase III water shortage restrictions for identified portions of the Lower East Coast and non-agricultural uses of Lake Okeechobee.
- Prepared and Issued Order # 2001-48 DAO-WS rescinding water shortage orders and declaring an Emergency and a modified Phase II restrictions.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Received over 200 media contacts.
- Media Right has begun purchasing time for our radio and TV spots.
- Developing new radio and TV PSAs with a more severe theme.
- Distributed fliers to *Publix* and other businesses.
- Updated all materials/ messages to reflect current Phase II modified information. New publications for targeted audiences are in development.
- Planning the acknowledgement of hundreds of entries for the Water Shortage Education Contest for schools.
- Judging is underway for the education contest entries. Awards will be presented at the April Governing Board.
- Distributed to over 146,000 students information on water shortage in Newspapers Education insert.
- Contacting business/government outlets requesting mass distribution of materials

and placement of posters in windows.

- **Assisted in employee water shortage training sessions on 3/30/01 and 4/05/01 to communicate current conditions and outreach opportunities.**
- **Coordinating the participation in at least six major Earth Day events.**

Signed: _____
Joe Taylor, Deputy Executive Director
Water Resources Operations

Olivia McLean, Director of
Emergency Management

Distribution:

SFWMD Governing Board members
Executive Group
Governors Office
John Adams, SFWMD
Tom MacVicar
Melissa Meeker, Department of Environmental Protection
John Adams, US Army Corps of Engineers – Jacksonville
John Hashtak, US Army Corps of Engineers – Jacksonville
Jim Vearil, US Army Corps of Engineers – Jacksonville
Karen Estock, US Army Corps of Engineers – Clewiston
Patrick Odom, State EOC – ESF5, Intel
Al Canepa, St. Johns River Water Management District
B.J. Jarvis, Southwest Water Management District
Nick Wooten, Northwest Water Management District
Tom Marti, Suwannee River Water Management District

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